

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-26. (Canceled)

27. (Previously presented) An operator control device for controlling an endoscope, comprising:

a rotatable coupler that rotatably couples the operator control to a fixed feature on an endoscope shaft such that the operator control can be selectively rotated about the endoscope shaft but is prevented from moving along a length of the shaft;

a shaft collar in line with the rotatable coupler such that an endoscope shaft can be releasably secured to the operator control device through the rotatable coupler and the shaft collar;

a U-shaped handle extending between the rotatable coupler and the shaft collar;

an endoscope control mounted on the U-shaped handle; and

a trigger positioned between the U-shaped handle and the endoscope shaft for engaging and disengaging the operator control device from the endoscope shaft.

28. (New) The operator control of Claim 27, wherein the trigger operates an anti-rotation pad that prevents the endoscope shaft from rotating in the operator control device.

29. (New) The operator control device of Claim 27, wherein the U-shaped handle includes a joy stick for controlling the movement and operation of a distal end of the endoscope.